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25 September 1952

TO : [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

THRU : AD/FR

FROM : Chief, D/GC

SUBJECT: Territorial Reorganization of Eastern Germany

1. The recent territorial changes in Eastern Germany (Soviet Zone) are part of a planned program toward the conversion of that region into a full-fledged "people's democracy." The creation of a new category of administrative unit follows the pattern of area reorganization in other Communist states such as Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and in parts of China.

2. Premier Grotewohl of the "German Democratic Republic" introduced a bill for the territorial reorganization of Eastern Germany before the Peoples Chamber on 23 July 1952. According to Grotewohl, the existence of the Länder (states) in their present form, with their considerable powers of self government, is a hindrance to the planning and development of the state economy. Increasing centralization in the economic field has reduced the importance of the Länder. The Land and Kreis (county) boundaries in many cases no longer correspond to economic conditions. (Data from FBIS Daily Report, 24 July 1952.)

3. The bill provides that each of the states of Mecklenburg, Brandenburg, Saxony, and Thuringia will be divided into three Bezirke (areas), and Saxony-Anhalt will be divided into two areas, making a total of 14 areas in Eastern Germany (see accompanying map). These provisions thus differ somewhat from earlier reports on the proposed reorganization. (Department of State Despatch 59, Berlin, 24 July 1952. Secret.) The former 143 rural and urban counties have been regrouped into 194 rural and 23 urban counties. The new rural counties will contain an average of 50 Gemeinden (communes) each. (Data from New York Times, 24 July 1952.)

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4. The fourteen new areas, in each case, bear the name of their principal city. They were formed from the former Länder as follows: (New York Times, 12 August 1952; FBIS Daily Report, 15 August 1952)

- a. Mecklenburg - Rostock, Schwerin, and Neubrandenburg.
- b. Brandenburg - Frankfurt, Cottbus, and Potsdam.
- c. Thuringia - Erfurt, Gera, and Suhl.
- d. Saxony - Leipzig, Dresden, and Chemnitz.
- e. Saxony-Anhalt - Magdeburg and Halle.

5. The effect of the bill's provisions will be to increase the number and decrease the size of minor administrative units. Grotewohl claimed that the reorganization would free several thousand administrative employees at the Länder level for work in industry. Lower administrative positions are being filled by "volunteers," like the "elected" block leaders, a measure which not only saves money, but will also bring more and more party members into the lower state apparatus. (Department of State Despatch 69, op. cit.)

Enclosure: Map of German Democratic  
Republic (Photostat)

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